

Annual Report of Health Officer of  
Los Angeles City.

Nov 13. 1879.

To the Hon. the Council of the City of Los Angeles,

Gentlemen:

While

the city has made favorable progress during the last ten months in many directions, yet I believe in none has the advance been more marked than in its sanitary condition, and in the manner of collecting vital statistics.

I look

with especial pride to the system of sewerage that your Hon. Body have inaugurated by small pipes. The large sewers that were first used in Los Angeles are being discarded by sanitary engineers the world over.

During the year the Temple Street Sewer and the Fort Street Sewer have been constructed to the great advantage of the portion of the city near those streets.

The great need of the city now is a sewer on Alameda Street that will drain First, Commercial and also Streets and China town and the vicinity of the New Depots. I trust that another year will see this sewer completed. There is a demand for a sewer on Spring Street that I am confident will be complied with at an early date.

Many com-

plaints have been made by people living in the vicinity of the property of A. Bria walter where the Main Sewer empties. Very soon it will be the city's imperative duty to either have the sewage disinfected or to ~~carry~~ extend the Main Sewer farther from the city.

#### Chinatown.

This is the crying sanitary evil of Los Angeles. The Chinese are crowded into a number of old dilapidated buildings in the heart of our city. ~~These~~ Their habits of living are filthy in the extreme. Soon after I had the honor of receiving an appointment from you I attempted to enforce the cubic air law that requires 500 cubic feet in the clear for each person in a sleeping apartment. The attempt was ineffectual mainly I believe because of the prejudice against what is called Chinese persecution. In the last annual report of Dr. J. G. Meares, Health Officer of San Francisco he says:

I desire, through you, to call the attention of the proper authorities to the necessity of the daily enforcement of our much abused "cubic-air ordinance." The spasmodic execution of this law against the Chinese is of no avail. Its daily enforcement would compel many of these people to leave the city, or to discontinue living in these overcrowded quarters. The sanitary

is better yet

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The above would to a great extent apply to

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the death rate amongst them is really  
decimating them. I desire to express here  
my thanks to Dr. Den for his assistance in  
encouraging the native population to take  
proper sanitary precautions.

Yet in spite  
of all these unusual causes of death in Los Angeles  
it will be seen by referring to our Mortality  
report that the death rate is not excess-  
ive.

We have been almost free from Scro-  
let-fever and Diphtheria during the last  
year there being but one death in the city  
from the former and four from the latter.  
I append to my report a circular that was  
issued by the Board of Health urging the  
people to put their premises in good  
condition and giving them directions  
for the prevention of disease.

In return I desire  
to express my appreciation of the hearty  
practical manner in which Your Hon.  
Body has uniformly cooperated with me  
in my efforts to preserve the health of  
our beautiful city.

I wish to especial-  
ly thank His Honor Mayor Loberman  
for being always accessible when I de-  
sired his authority to take any steps

Los Angeles. In February your Hon. Body appointed a committee consisting of the Chief of Police, City Engineer and Health Officer to report on a plan for improving the Sanitary condition of Chinatown. That committee reported two plans viz 1<sup>st</sup> to condemn the buildings and order them vacated. 2<sup>nd</sup> they especially recommended that a sewer be built on Alameda Street and the extension of Los Angeles Street. I trust that another year will see the latter plan carried out.

The city of Los Angeles has become renowned the world over as resort for invalids and it behooves us for that reason as well as for the preservation of the lives of our own families to put it in the very best sanitary condition. We have the health giving sun almost every day in the year, we have the ocean breeze just properly tempered by hills and orange groves, we have the best altitude for health, we have pure water pouring down from a mountain stream, we have a porous soil and an excellent drainage, we have the most equable temperature in the civilized world, we have in fact everything that God could give us to make this a healthful city and

yet we allow that rotten spot - Chinatown - to grow and pollute the air we breathe and poison the water we drink. Your Hon. Body has taken far more interest in the health of our city than any previous council and I believe that you will soon find the ways and means to remove the Chinese to healthful quarters.

As a great portion of our population is composed of elderly people who desire to spend their last days in a warm climate our death rate is increased above what it naturally should be. This being also a popular resort for invalids there are many deaths of persons who were too much diseased to be benefitted and who died very soon after their arrival. A number of the deaths from consumption were of persons who had been here but a few days. Our death report also contains the deaths in our County Hospital, very few of the inmates of which were ever residents of the city until they entered the hospital. There is yet another peculiar cause of an increase in our death rate viz: our native California population. Owing to the fact that they totally ignore all ordinary hygienic and sanitary rules

in the Health Department. His Honor has  
~~displayed~~ <sup>acquired</sup> a knowledge of sanitary  
and hygienic questions and an <sup>intelligent</sup> interest in  
the health of the people that is seldom  
found outside of the medical profession.

Very respectfully yours  
Walter Lindley, M.D.  
Health Officer.

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Mortality Report of the City of

Los Angeles

for the ten months beginning  
January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending November 1<sup>st</sup> 1879

Total Number of Deaths including  
Still births 175. ~~Estimated~~

Estimated population 16000.  
Annual rate per thousand 13.1

Fifty of the deaths in this report  
occurred in our hospitals.

Report of Births in the City of  
Los Angeles  
for the ten months beginning  
January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1829

January	Male 11	Female 14	Total 25
February	Male 9	Female 12	Total 21
March	Male 14	Female 16	Total 30
April	Male 12	Female 10	Total 22
May	Male 8	Female 13	Total 21
June	Male 13	Female 8	Total 21
July	Male 23	Female 9	Total 26
August	Male 8	Female 8	Total 16
September	Male 13	Female 5	Total 18
October	Male 14	Female 8	Total 23
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Total	Male 117	Female 104	223

The above is incomplete.

Diseases

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

	Maltese	Peninsula	Outer Islands	Sierra Mts.	Volcanic Islands	Central Valley	Pacific Coast	Mediterranean	Atlantic Islands	Pacific Coast	Maltese Islands	Maltese Islands	Indigo Clouds
Scarlatina	1	1	1					1					
Diphtheria	4	2	2	3		1		3		1			
Smallpox	2	2		1		1		2					
Whooping Cough	1	1		1				1					
Typhoid Fever	3	2	1	2	1			1	1	1			
Diarrhea	3	2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1			
Dysentery	4	3	1	1	1	2		1	1	1	1		
Cholera Infantum	1	1		1				1					
Cervical Dysplasia						1							
Meningitis													
Syphilis	2	1	1	1	1		2						
Alcoholismus	1	1			1				1				

4th

Constitutional

Rheumatism	3	3		1	1	1		1	1	1			
Cancer	5	3	2		1	3	1	2	1		2		
Phthisis Pulmonalis	35	26	9		1	29	5	6	14	2	13		
Hydrocephalus	1	1				1				1			
Subacute Meningitis	1	2	2	1	1	1		2	1		1		

3rd

Local Diseases

Paroxysm	1	1		1				1					
Epilepsy	1	1		1				1					
Hysteria	3	2	1	1		1	1	1	1				
Other Diseases													
of Nervous System	7	3	4	6		1		6		1			
Heart Disease	12	11	1	2		6	2	2	4	1		7	
Pneumonia	3	1	2	2		1		2		1			
Pneumonia	11	6	5	3		5	3	4	3	3	1		
Gastritis	8	5	3	7		1		7			1		
Enteritis	6	3	3	2		2	1	1	3	2	1		
Hepatitis	1	1				1				1			
Bright's Disease	2	2				1	1	1		1			
Stomach													
Cystitis	2	2				1	1	1	1	1			

2nd

Developmental  
or Disease

Surficial Fever	1	1		1				1					
Marasmus	15	6	9	18	1			15					
Old Age	7	3	4					7	3	1	1	3	
Swelling	2	1	1	2				2					
Still Birth	4	4											

5th

Violent Deaths	6	6		4	2		2	1		3			
Burned by Russians	2	2			2			1		1			
Quarantine	111	82	22	1	4	3	2	1		7			
Scarlatina	1	1											
Smallpox	1	1											
Totals	175	112	63	51	111	70	24	14					

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September 27

John Green

Dr. W. G. Gray.

John Hancock

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